



APPENDIX:K



**A LITERATURE REVIEW AND FIELD INSPECTION OF THE 56 ACRE ELMWOOD
SURPLUS LANDS CONSTRAINTS STUDY AREA, MILPITAS, SANTA CLARA
COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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INTRODUCTION

An archaeological literature review and field inspection of the 56 acre proposed surplus lands development area was conducted by this author at the request of Dave Powers & Associates of San Jose. While materials reviewed during the course of the literature review suggest that portions of the surplus lands have archaeological resources located inside them, an actual field inspection failed to turn up any surface indicators of prehistoric archaeological deposits. This report contains a summary of information gained from the literature review and field inspection and makes recommendations for additional mechanical subsurface presence/absence testing of the surplus lands.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will call for the eventual development under lease from the County of Santa Clara of the 56 acres of surplus lands which surround the existing Elmwood Correctional Facility on the west, north and east in Milpitas. Located on the Milpitas U.S.G.S. map of the area, the borders of the properties can be described as follows:

Western Parcel: this is bordered by Highway 880 on the west, a defunct golf driving range on the north, the existing parking lot for the correctional facility on the east, and by Tasman Drive on the south.

Northern Parcel: this is made up of the defunct driving range and is bordered on the west by Highway 880, on the north by housing, on the east by South Abel Street and on the south by the access road to the correctional facility.

Eastern Parcel: this parcel is found on the east side of Abel Street and is bordered by Abel Street on the west, West Curtis Avenue on the south, buildings on the east and on the north; the right of way for the Hetch Hetchy water line passes through the southern portion of this open field.

At the time of the field inspection in June these properties had been recently disced to remove weed covering and other than the obvious dumping of construction debris over portions of them, were open with the exception of the former driving range: located behind fences on the west, south and east, this area is covered either by buildings or artificially raised landscape which made up the driving range in the past; a dense layer of weeds and grasses covered all open areas inside the fenced in zone at the time of the field inspection.

ARCHIVAL RESEARCH

Prior to the actual field inspection, this author conducted an archival literature review at the Northwest Information Center located at Sonoma State University to obtain information about recorded archaeological sites in and around the project area, and information about

deposits. These findings and recommendations are echoed in a report done for the same study area for ESA Associates in 1987.

Cartier returned to the jail confines in 1988 to test for the borders of the archaeological deposit inside the jail grounds through a program of 28 hand auger holes and two 1x1 meter hand excavation units. This report contains information regarding the age of the archaeological site, and discusses at some length the constituents of the soils identified by him as cultural; he concluded that the area bordered on the east by Abel Street and the channelized Penitencia Creek formed an un-natural eastern border of the site, and that an area of archaeological materials and human remains extended westerly into areas of planned improvements.

It should be noted that the 1988 report did not speculate on the discoveries made by Cartier outside of the existing jail complex at earlier dates and described as possibly "buried midden", but concentrated on the ground inside the jail specifically. Likewise he did not speculate on the extension of the site to the east across Abel Road into the surplus lands which are the focus of this study, other than to show site boundary lines extending to the eastern edge of Abel Street.

The western portion of the present study area was in fact surveyed a second time by another group of archaeologists in 1995. Basin Research Associates noted in their report that the property was situated west of Scl-38, but did not cite the suspicions of Cartier that buried archaeological materials may exist in the general vicinity. When the Basin field survey turned up no "significant historic or prehistoric archaeological cultural materials", they concluded that the planned construction of a large building could go ahead with no further need for subsurface presence or absence testing. Monitoring, however, was recommended in the event that buried archaeological materials were uncovered (Basin 1995 pp.6).

Cartier once again visited the jail in 1996 for a soil erosion project, but did not find any extant archaeological materials to worry about. In the meantime work had commenced on a number of improvement inside the jail grounds, which led to the discovery of a productive archaeological deposit. Work was taken over by the Ohlone Families Consulting Services, which was responsible for the exposure and removal of over 200 human burials and other cultural materials from the development area over the next year. A three volume report was issued in 1998 which detailed the results of their excavation, burial removal and analysis of materials. While this work is very informative about Scl-38, it on no way speculates on the size of the archaeological deposit outside of the jail enclosure.

The last and most recent archaeological study which borders the jail complex was done by Cartier in 1997 for the 16 acres of housing developed recently between Abel Street on the west, Curtis Avenue on the north, Main Street on the east, and Tasman Drive on the south. Based upon the discovery of small amounts of fire affected rock and earth and because survey

either inside the golf course or to the northeast of it along old meanders of the Penitencia.

DESCRIPTION OF FIELD INSPECTION

A visual inspection of the surplus lands was conducted by this author and Matthew Clark of Holman & Associates over a two day period in mid June. The surface of the project area was inspected by walking 20 meter transects over it. Visibility was excellent in all areas due to a recent discing other than inside the former driving range where no weed control was done, and where it is obvious that the driving range itself was constructed on top of imported fill, altering the elevation of the range considerably. Small portions of the western and eastern fields are also covered by imported construction debris, with soil color changes evident along with large amounts of broken up concrete.

Elsewhere the soils are comprised of a silty clay loam containing varying amounts of naturally occurring gravels, comprised of cherts, basalts and sandstone. The ground surface was carefully inspected for any of the indicators noted by previous researchers: evidence of fires (ash, charcoal, fire altered rock and/or soils), concentrations of stone, bone and fresh water shellfish, and artifacts of these materials.

FINDINGS

Other than a few problematic examples of what could be fire altered rock (cooking stones), no artifactual materials or other evidence of aboriginal habitation was seen anywhere inside the project area. Soil composition, other than where it is evident that imported soils have been dumped (10% of the western field, all of the driving range and perhaps 10% of the eastern field) is uniform and exhibits none of the other typical indicators of midden, such as a change in color or texture.

The lack of surface indicators however does not mean that these areas are devoid of archaeological deposits. All three fields (the west, north and east) have some potential for containing buried midden. While the monitoring and testing reports for the jail complex itself suggest that Scl-38 fades out on the western and northern edges of the jail complex, these studies cannot be relied upon to rule out the possible presence of additional midden deposits, currently buried. Evidence by Cartier and others suggests that the potential for additional discoveries is highest to the west and east: Cartier reported artifacts in gopher holes on the western side of the jail (possibly in the existing parking lot), and the most recent site survey form for Scl-38 as well as maps done by Cartier from testing inside the jail suggest that the midden deposit is most dense on the edge of the channelized Penitencia Creek, therefore suggesting that the fields immediately east of Abel could contain a continuation of Scl-38.

REFERENCES CONSULTED

Archaeological site Record for CA-Scl-38

1985

Busby, Colin

1995

Cultural Resources Assessment for Construction of Structure Vicinity of Elmwood Correctional Facility, Tasman Drive and Interstate Route 880 City of Milpitas, Santa Clara County, California. On file, Northwest Information Center (NWIC), Sonoma State University. File no. S-18297.

Cartier, Robert

1981

Cultural Resource Evaluation for the Elmwood Addition Project in the County of Santa Clara. On file, NWIC. File E-993/S-8485

1985 a

CULTURAL RESOURCE EVALUATION OF THE ELMWOOD REHABILITATION CENTER PRE-TRIAL FACILITY IN THE CITY OF MILPITAS, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA. On file, NWIC. File no. S-7557.

1985b

CULTURAL RESOURCE EVALUATION FOR THE ELMWOOD DETENTION FACILITY MASTER PLAN IN THE CITY OF MILPITAS, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA. On file, NWIC. File no. S-7563.

1987

CULTURAL RESOURCE EVALUATION FOR THE ELMWOOD DETENTION FACILITY MASTER PLAN IN THE CITY OF MILPITAS, COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA. On file, NWIC. File no S-9144.

1988

ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDY OF THE ELMWOOD DETENTION FACILITY. On file, NWIC. File no. S-10215.

1996

CULTURAL RESOURCE EVALUATION OF THE URGENT EROSION CONTROL PROJECT FOR THE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM EIR. On file, NWIC. File no. S-18403

1997a

CULTURAL RESOURCES EVALUATION FOR THE MILPITAS APARTMENTS PROJECT IN THE CITY OF MILPITAS. On file, NWIC. File no. S-19406

ELMWOOD CORRECTIONS CENTER
56 ACRE SURPLUS LANDS STUDY AREA

MILPITAS, SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
MILPITAS U.S.G.S. MAP

